

**Minutes of the Barlaston Parish Council Meeting
Held on Tuesday March 6th. 2012**

Present: – Gareth Jones
Chairman

Tony Dodd	Viv O'Dunne
Sara Fearn	John Russell
Peter Stevenson	Elaine Philpott
	Sheila Perkin

Apologies: Paul Fisher, Lynne Bakker-Collier, Steve Hall

In attendance: Kyle Wildsmith, Louis Effingham, Mark Soames, Matt Bibb, Chris Webster, N. Winnett, D. Bould, P.C. Hilditch, P.C.S.O. Rebecca Powell, Jonnathan Wilshaw, Rebecca Wilshaw, Lol Barnes.

Open Forum

404. A group of five young residents of the Barlaston Park Estate were welcomed and their spokesman, Chris Webster, spoke about the need for a floodlit play area in Barlaston as an alternative to being a nuisance on the streets. They felt that there were very limited facilities for their age group on the Barlaston Park Estate and identified a number of ways they wanted to raise funds to develop the Multiple Use Games Area off Flaxman Close.

405. Their ideas were welcomed and the Council congratulated Chris and his friends for giving such an honest and reasoned plea for support. The Chairman pledged that the Council would consider the proposals and look to give some initial support to the group. It was agreed that Councillor Dodd would act as the link to the group.

406a.) There was an open exchange between the Council, the residents and the applicants regarding the current Oaklands planning application. Mr. J. Wilshaw the applicant explained that it was his wish to restore the property as far as possible to its original design and to build a garage.

b.) There was no intention to develop the property for business use but to have space to pursue their hobbies and interests which had now been explained to the nearby residents.

c.) Mr. Winnett responded on behalf of the residents and reported that he had met with Mr. & Mrs. Wilshaw and they had an amicable discussion.

d.) He felt that there should be total clarity stated in the application regarding business use to avoid any possible confusion. He felt that the applicants should submit an agreed comment to Stafford B.C. to clarify this matter.

e.) The Chairman had called the application in and that the process of consideration of the application would continue but the overall preservation of the Village Green area was paramount to the Council.

407. The two Police officers present were updated with regard to areas in the Parish where groups might be congregating and causing anti-social behaviour. It was hoped the Police could follow up on these matters particularly during the evening. It was noted that there was no guarantee of Police support for the 2012 Remembrance Sunday Parade.

408. Lol Barnes, the new local community news correspondent for the Staffordshire Newsletter, was welcomed to the meeting. She was grateful for the opportunity to meet the Council and would be happy to report local news and events.

Minutes of the meeting held on February 7th 2012

409: RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on February 7th be approved and signed by the Chairman.

Matters arising

410. Re. Minute 394. It was noted that only Councillors Philpott and Fearn had attended the tour of Staffordshire Place feeling disappointed other Councillors did not take advantage of this opportunity.

Report by Chairman

411. The Chairman reported on the possibility of producing a Planning and Design Statement for the land occupied by Wedgwood Memorial College. This was discussed and fully supported. It was agreed that the Council should make some financial contribution towards the total cost of this work which has been estimated at around £5,000. A similar exercise undertaken in respect of the vacated Staffordshire Police Headquarters in Baswich, Stafford had proved successful.

412. It was felt that that this statement would be of value to the local community in addressing the future use of this important parcel of real estate.

413. The production of this statement would greatly assist in developing a community view as to how this land in the middle of the village should be developed and what amenities should be considered for the site.

414. It is considered very important that as the future of this land in the middle of the village is considered that it should be done against the background of a local consultation.

Finance Report

415. The following items were considered and approved:

	NET	VAT	Total Cost
a.) Neil Hemmings - Accommodation allowance	£40.00		£40.00
b.) British Gas- Electricity supply- Village Hall	£213.92	£42.78	£256.70
c.) Andy Purcell- agreed work in Cemetery removing mound of soil and sowing grass seed	£100.00		£100.00
d.) Barlaston P.C.C.- donation towards Church Magazine	£250.00		£250.00
e.) Biffa Waste Services- Village Hall and Cricket Club	£97.21	£19.44	£116.65
f.) Town & Country Services- Flaxman Close	£80.00	£16.00	£96.00
g.) Party Packs- Diamond Jubilee Celebration materials	£246.68	£49.34	£296.02
h.) Barlaston Boys Brigade- football kit donation	£350.00		£350.00

i.) The February salaries for the Clerk, Transport Co-ordinator and litter pickers have been met.

j.) The Clerk requested the purchase of four new litter pickers at a cost of £30 for use in the village this was agreed.

k.) Doreen Barr had written a thank-you for the recent donation to the Church magazine.

Planning Update

416. It was noted that the Heyfields application had been approved.

417. The Clerk reported upon the most recent planning applications that had been considered and that one application would be considered by the Planning Committee at the end of the meeting.

418. The Clerk would pass on any new applications to Councillor Russell whilst Councillor Fisher was on holiday.

419. It was agreed that the viewing of planning application on line was often difficult and did not give a clear picture of proposals and that a formal meeting might be appropriate if there was a controversial proposal or neighbourhood issues. It was agreed to review the procedure at the April meeting.

420 It was agreed to discuss this further when all members of the Planning Committee were present.

Voluntary Transport Scheme.

421. Councillor Dodd reported 14 trips had been organised in the month. These were mostly local trips.

Village Plan

422. Councillor Hall had written a draft executive summary from the analysis of the questionnaires received.

423. Councillor O'Dunne had analysed this information and manipulated the data into graphical form for all responses to the questions in the survey.

424. A draft copy of the findings to formulate the plan was distributed to all present for their consideration and comment by the next meeting to Councillor Hall. Any comment critical or otherwise would be welcomed.

425. The Council recognised the significant work that Councillors Hall and O'Dunne had undertaken and it was hoped a further critical analysis by a neutral third party would help to refine the findings and to produce a viable Village Action Plan.

426. It was noted that five new Community first Responders had completed their training and exams.

Barlaston East Ward- Councillor Vacancy

427. After consideration it was agreed to co-opt Patrick Linehan of Longton Road as the new Councillor for the Barlaston East Ward.

428. The Clerk would action this decision and contact Mr. Linehan in due course.

Broadband Speed and Access in Barlaston

429. The Clerk had identified a website indicating the supposed speed for Broadband by the many providers that clearly varied through the Parish. It was thought that the advertised speed by some providers was often not reached and there were many noted difficulties in locations such as Bedcroft.

430. It was unlikely that the Broadband provided by the cable network through Virgin would be extended.

431. It was felt the only course of action was for residents experiencing difficulties to contact their individual providers.

Nominations for Certificate(s) of Commendation and Golden Jubilee Award 2012

432. The Clerk reported on all the nominations that had been received and read out several commendations for nominees. Several Councillors then contributed with their recommendations on the nominees.

433. It was agreed to keep the decisions made private until the exact details of any presentations were agreed for June.

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations.

434. Councillor Philpott reported on the plans and expenditure to date; she would give a full breakdown at the April meeting when the organising committee had met again.

Matters arising from the Open Forum.

435. It was agreed to support the plans for more leisure facilities for football at Barlaston Park and Councillor Dodd would liaise with the boys and it was agreed upto £50 be spent to provide them with a football and tabards.

436. It was hoped that the Police would patrol the areas off Station Road that was being misused.

Correspondence and Clerk's Report

437. The points from the Clerk's report were accepted and in addition he raised a number of issues.

438. No donation to C.P.R.E. was to be made this year.

439. There was a problem to resolve over the grass cutting of verges on the Barlaston Park Estate as Stafford & Rural Homes had passed this responsibility back to Staffordshire Highways.

440. The Clerk displayed a plan showing the areas on Barlaston Park that Stafford & Rural Homes would cut via Greenfingers which were the non verge areas and the areas that Highways would take over to be cut by their contractors Enterprise but only 8 times a season rather than the existing 14.

441. It had been suggested by the Highways Department to the Clerk that the Parish Council could use their existing contractor Greenfingers to cut the verges but this would probably lead to an additional overall charge as the reimbursement from Highways to the Parish Council would not cover all of the costs.

442. The Clerk had visited the sites with Greenfingers who were to provide a charge for the possibility of cutting this grass in due course but it was not possible to make a decision at this point as all the costs were not known.

443. The other concern the Clerk raised was he believed that there were verges on the Brookhouse Drive estate and the Beechfields/ Beechcroft estate that Greenfingers had been mowing that were not on the Stafford & Rural homes schedule as he had seen on his visit with the area manager for Greenfingers.

444. The Clerk would continue to investigate the issues involved and report directly to the Chairman and the Council in due course when he was in full possession of all the costs and facts.

445. There had been ongoing complaints regarding litter and noise from youths in vehicles on the road to the Scout Hut off Station Road. The Clerk had reported the problem to the Police and the litter pickers were visiting the area regularly.

446. It was agreed that the Clerk would employ a local resident to replant part of the raised bed where some of the perennial shrubs had died.

447. It was agreed that the Clerk would also take advantage of the free offer of help from Mr. Peter Sellers of Tittensor Road to spend time clearing, tidying and pruning shrubs on this section of road.

448. The Clerk had received a request for the Council to support a personal injury claim of a resident from Flaxman close; the Clerk had advised the claimant this was unlikely to be supported by the Parish Council but he would speak to the resident's solicitor if requested.

449. The Diamond Jubilee Beacon was being lit by the National Trust volunteers on the Millennium Point in June.

Any other business – Agenda items for meeting to be held April 3rd. 2012.

450. Councillor Fearn was meeting with the vicar to discuss ongoing improvements to the Cemetery

451. There were ongoing problems with parking at Orchard Place notably by staff working at the shops causing difficulties during opening hours.

452. Councillor Perkin raised the fundraising efforts of the Girl Guides in supporting a cause in Mombasa; they had organised one fund raising event already and were seeking support.

453. The Clerk would report the issue of rats on the canal to British Waterways and a broken street light off Meadow Road. New street lights were being fitted along Meaford Road as part of Staffordshire Highways maintenance schedule, nothing could be done to stop this despite residents requests.

454. It was agreed to place on the April Agenda Barlaston Health Centre and the Barlaston Park Play facilities for teenagers.

Note by Clerk

455. The Parish Council meeting closed and members re-convened as the Village Hall Trustees.

Village Hall Committee Report

456. Councillor Jones reported upon the energy saving that was occurring at the Village Hall. This was noted and thanks were expressed to the Committee who had installed the latest monitoring methods.

Chairman